

NPA Ward 6 Minutes – December 7, 2017 - DRAFT

Public Forum

Steering Committee member present: Clare Wool, Charles Simpson, Brian MacDonald, Matt Grady

Start: 7:00pm

Greg Epler Wood spoke on three topics:

1. Expressed opinion that it's important to save internet neutrality, referencing the upcoming FCC vote, and shared www.battleforthenet.com
2. The Keep Burlington Telecom Local movement is still active, with an upcoming December 19th meeting, and the intent to continue to promote their values in local matters
3. Concern that the arrival of the F-35 will adversely impact noise levels in the community, based on an evaluation that the way dB were measured is flawed. Distributed information based on this research, and is promoting a petition to the City Council.

Ginny Lyons, Chittenden District State Senator, provided updates, including works she's been involved with:

- Water funding bill
- Noise standards for the state
- VW settlement money and it's use towards bus electrification
- Healthcare and reducing the cost of prescription drugs
- Work to introduce a Vermont constitutional equal rights amendment in 2018. Approximately 20 states have one.

Scheduled Presenters

Sandy Yusen, Director, Communications and External Relations, Champlain College

- Updates included: college holiday schedule, fire alarm testing, some aspects of Champlain College's unique nature as it pertains to student support
- Eagles Landing project is on track to be completed fall 2018.

Marcy Esbjerg, Assistant Director for Community, Housing, & Opportunity Programs, shared a presentation on regional housing practices:

- Done to evaluate how people in federally protected classes are being served by the local housing markets, in order to continue to receive federal HUD funds
- More information and a draft of the report can be found at <https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CEDO/Assessment-of-Fair-Housing>

- Questions included impact of airport housing loss, which wasn't included in the report, and that of new housing at Champlain College and University of Vermont, which was.

David Armstrong, Planning Manager, Green Mountain Transit

- Burlington Electric received a grant to purchase four electric buses. Compressed natural gas buses were evaluated and found not viable for current transit needs
- Currently completing a comprehensive service analysis to evaluate use patterns, to be completed February or March 2018. The process includes:
 - Study of regional transportation and planning
 - Public hearings
 - Route change evaluation
- Goals include simplifying service, and providing more consistent service, and expanding evening and weekend service, on major routes
- Questions included how routes are determined, Route Shout (a GPS-based service to see where buses are) and cost analysis of electric buses.

Steve Goodkind and **Tony Redington**, Pine Street Coalition, discussed their opposition to the current design of the Champlain Parkway

- Goal is to redesign the roadway for Livable Use, noting the current parkway design is antiquated (2006) and doesn't do what was originally intended
- Propose to reopen the design process in order to make sure the street serves the neighborhood, and incorporates the latest best practices
- Provided an overview handout, with more information available at www.safestreetsburlington.com
- Questions included impacts to Pine Street and City Market.

Karen Paul, Ward 6 Burlington City Councilor, discussed updates from the prior and upcoming City Council meetings:

- Quality of life ordinances
- Voting on proposed hotel on the parking lot adjacent to Bove's, and aspects of the project (included discussion)
- Review of the letter of intent from Schurz Communications.

Joan Shannon, South District Burlington City Councilor, continued from Karen's updates to discuss:

- She's undecided on the Bove's lot sale (included discussion)
- Clarification on the City Market/connector issue
- Two Ward 6 students were selected as designers of the new Burlington flag
- Questions for Karen and Joan included more on Bove's, and impacts of Burlington's recent Moody upgrade.

Fran Brock, President of the Burlington Education Association

- Check Burlington High School website for upcoming concerts and events

- Discussed upcoming BEA goals, which include getting teachers more involved in PTO events, connecting with people who don't have children in the school system, working to improve school safety, and becoming more efficient at narrowing the achievement gap
- Questions included recent teacher/student ratio announcement by Governor Scott, proficiency-based learning and its impact on teachers and students.

Stephanie Seguino, Ward 6 School Board Member and Vice-Chair

- Current budget is forecast to increase property taxes
- The Burlington school district bears additional costs that are unaddressed in the current state funding ratio, due to the unique demographics and attendant services and support needed in the Burlington area
- Our lunch program is above average
- Supporting trauma training in order to help kids cope and address trauma, which supports better learning outcomes.

Jeff Wick, District South School Board Member, continued:

- The school board is preparing the budget, with upcoming meetings on December 19th and 21st
- Finalizing the Superintendent's annual evaluation
- District is finalizing the teacher's and para-educator's contracts, the latter still in discussion. Teacher's contract should be signed soon
- Questions included teacher contracts and the status of the para-educator's negotiations.

*There will be no Ward 6 NPA January 4, 2018 meeting. Ward 6 NPA meeting will resume back on February 1, 2018.

End: 9:00pm

Minutes submitted by Brian MacDonald